

REMARKS

This is in reply to the Final Office Action mailed on April 14, 2003. Applicants first wish to thank the Examiner and supervisor for telephonic interview held on August 6, 2003 with the undersigned. In the interview the present amendments were discussed, as well as the prior art of record and that specifically cited against the claims in the Final Office Action. It was generally agreed that the reference to the crest profile defining a single continuous apex would be more clearly understood by the reader, and would assist in distinguishing over the prior art record.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the drawing corrections filed on February 28, 2003 were accepted. Formal corrections to the drawings are presently being prepared, and will be filed as soon as they are available. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating the acceptability of the changes.

All of the claims pending in the Application were rejected in view of Hiroyuki in view of Gutshall, or in view of these two references and further in view of Thom. Applicants note that the current amendment to the claims is believed to further the distinctiveness of the claimed subject matter from the cited references considered either alone or in combination. Specifically, none of the references of record, either alone or in combination, disclose a lead that includes a plurality of bosses and successive recessed bases, with each boss extending radially beyond the adjacent bases and presenting a respective profile including a lead-in profile, a lead-out profile and *a central section of substantially uniform radial dimension, wherein the respective profiles comprise a crest profile defining a single continuous apex*. The references also fail to show the other features of the independent claims, including such profiles along a pair of leads in a double-helix arrangement, any recitation or teaching of a constant insertion torque in such a fastener, or any recitation or teaching relating to a ratio of removal to insertion torque, as recited in certain independent claims.

By the present amendment, new claims are furthermore added. A new dependent claim (depending from claim 1) and a single additional independent claim (which recites features similar to those discussed above), add that the recessed bases also have central sections of substantially uniform radial dimension. Because the new claims result in the total number of independent and overall claims pending in the Application being still less than the total number for which fees were originally paid, no fees are believed due for the additional claims.

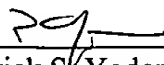
Clearly, none of the cited prior art includes this particular combination of features. In view of the amendments in the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and requests a notice to that affect at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments set forth above, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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